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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7565
INFO RUCNMER/MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2622
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0518
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0134
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ SEP PORT AU PRINCE 0028
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 1925
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 2580
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 3040
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UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 000818

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DEPT ALSO FOR WHA/CAR DEPUTY DIRECTOR (TIMOTHY RYAN)

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: URUGUAY LIKELY TO SUPPORT UN
SYG'S MINUSTAH PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 121079

11. (SBU) A/DCM delivered reftel demarche to the MFA's
Director of Multilateral Affairs Elsa Borges on September 7.
Borges said that "in principle" the MFA supported the UN
Secretary General's recommendations for a one-year MINUSTAH

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mandate renewal, maintaining current force levels with minor
adjustments, helping Haiti improve its border and maritime
security capacity, and maintaining the UN Stabilization
Mission to Haiti (MINUSTAH) primary focus on its security
mission. She added, however, that the ultimate decision for
the one-year MINUSTAH mandate renewal rested with Uruguay's
congress, and that thus far congress had voted only for a
five month extension. Borges promised to get back to the
Embassy after she consulted with her contacts in congress and
the military to see if she could provide us with a more
complete answer to the demarche. At the end of the exchange,
Borges asked if there was "any news" on Uruguay's \$20 million
project proposal for Haiti, that the MFA submitted to the
Department a few months ago. A/DCM responded that the project
proposal was still under review and consideration.

12. (SBU) Meanwhile, on September 12, PolOff lunched with
Congressman Jorge Menendez, the current President of the
lower Chamber's Defense Committee. Menendez said that the
Defense Committee's recent visit to Haiti was an
"eye-opening" experience. As a result of the visit he said
that Congress was now more favorably inclined to support the
one-year extension of the MINUSTAH mandate beyond the
existing five-month Congressional authorization. Menendez
also opined that the security focus of the MINUSTAH forces
would likely need to be maintained for at least "two to three
years" because the political situation in Haiti was "such a
mess". He further remarked that over time, MINUSTAH would
inevitably need to transition into a "development role" so
that it does not become "an occupation force" in the eyes of
the Haitians.
Baxter